

# Essential Clinical Anatomy

3rd edition. By Keith L. Moore & Anne M. R. Agur. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. ISBN 0-7817-6274-X.

*Essential Clinical Anatomy* presents undergraduate-level anatomy in the context of the increasingly clinically orientated anatomy teaching adopted by many medical schools and the increasing reliance on medical imaging for diagnosis. It also provides the tools by which the student can achieve a real understanding of the application of anatomy in the clinical context.

Each chapter is clearly laid out and deals with a specific area of the body. The anatomy of the area is described and amply endowed with excellent illustrations. Diagrams represent multiple planes and help the reader to appreciate the three-dimensional nature of anatomy. Tables are comprehensive and convey detail without relying solely on the main body of the text. Overall, the pages are colourful and appealing. The text provides sufficient detail without being too complex to follow easily. Key words are highlighted and sections within chapters are of a manageable size.

The introductory chapter is a key aid to understanding the rest of the book: it manages to explain some of the concepts that you were too afraid to say you didn't explicitly understand without being patronising. It ends with a section on imaging, setting the scene for subsequent chapters.

All too often, anatomy textbooks assume an understanding of surface anatomy whilst failing to provide it. Here, in each chapter, surface anatomy is given the importance it deserves and is clearly presented in yellow boxes. The 'Clinical Correlation' blue boxes highlight clinical

conundrums and use the relevant anatomical principles to explain them. These boxes are listed separately in the contents to enable searching from the disease to the underlying anatomy.

Medical imaging is vitally important in contemporary medicine and rightly finds a place at the end of each chapter. All too often in the clinic, medical students can find themselves relying on the 'eye of faith' when interpreting the multiple shades of grey. This book, by placing diagrams and medical imaging side by side, morphs them into clearly recognizable structures.

The accompanying website offered a lot of promise but I didn't find it as straightforward to access as I'd hoped. A major selling point for me would have been the USMLE practice questions that are announced inside the front cover, but I was unable to access them. After a game of e-mail ping-pong with the customer services department, I think I managed to ascertain that an educational institution needs to adopt the text as its course-book before an individual reader is allowed access.

Would I use this book? The answer is that I wish I had used this book. It would have saved many hours trawling through a variety of texts. It has enough clinical detail without drowning the student in a sea of unnecessary facts. Most importantly, it places fundamental human anatomy in a clinical context. It is a vital resource for the modern medical degree.

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